

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-01

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O R 201502Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9682

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USINT BAGHDAD

UNCLAS BEIRUT 3524

USIA FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, XF, LE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: AMBASSADOR BROWN ACTIVITIES

1. SUMMARY. WITH SOME MAJOR PAPERS NOT PUBLISHING  
BECAUSE OF EASTER HOLIDAY, COVERAGE FROM AMBASSADOR

BROWN ACTIVITIES IS SPARSE. PAPERS CONTINUE TO  
REPORT LEFTIST AND SYRIAN CRITICISMS OF U.S.  
AIMS IN LEBANON AND PRO-FRANJIEH "AL BAYRAQ" REPORTS  
FRANCIS MELOY BEING ASSIGNED AS NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO  
LEBANON. LEFTIST "AS SAFIR" PRINTS LONG "ANALYSIS" ATTRIBUTED  
TO AFP DESCRIBING A THEORY THAT U.S. ORIGINALLY  
APPROVED OF LEBANESE TRENDS BECAUSE IT THOUGHT  
AN "ARAB" RATHER THAN CHRISTIAN LEBANON COULD BEST  
COPE WITH PALESTINIANS. HOWEVER, WRITER ASSERTS,  
WHEN LEFTISTS LIKE JUMBLATT SEIZED CONTROL OF EVENTS,  
AMBASSADOR BROWN WAS SENT TO RESTORE QUIET,  
WHATEVER THE PRICE, SINCE SITUATION HAD GOTTEN  
OUT OF U.S. CONTROL. END SUMMARY.

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2. SPECULATING ON RESULTS OF AMBASSADOR BROWN'S

MISSION, CONSERVATIVE PRO-EGYPTIAN "AL ANWAR" REPORTS: "ARAB SOURCES IN CAIRO ARE WONDERING IF MR. BROWN IS ASSIGNED THE SAME ROLE WHICH MR. MURPHY PLAYED DURING THE 1958 EVENTS...AND WHETHER HIS MISSION WILL END IN THE SAME WAY AS MURPHY'S DID, WITH A CEASE-FIRE AND AGREEMENT ON A NEW PRESIDENT TO SUCCEED FRANJIEH."

3. SAME PAPER REPORTS STATEMENT BY LEFTIST PARTIES CLAIMING "MR. BROWN'S PROJECT TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONSORTIUM TO SUPERVISE RECONSTRUCTION OF LEBANON CONSTITUTES A NEW CIRCLE IN ZIONIST-IMPERIALIST PLAN TO STRIKE AT THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE, DESTROY THE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT IN LEBANON AND DESTROY THE NATIONALIST STAND OF SYRIA."

4. IN STILL ANOTHER ARTICLE "AL ANWAR" WRITES: "OBSERVERS CONCLUDE FROM REACTION TO THE DAMASCUS AGREEMENT BY COMBATANTS THAT THERE IS AMBIGUITY IN ATTITUDE OF DAMASCUS REGARDING ITS LEBANESE ALLIANCES. SOME QUARTERS TALK ABOUT A SUDDEN CHANGE IN SYRIAN ATTITUDE FROM OPEN CAMPAIGN AGAINST 'TRADERS IN REVOLUTION AND PROGRESSIVENESS' TO A NEW ALLIANCE WITH BOTH PUBLIC AND SECRET ANNEXES...OBSERVERS DRAW A LINK BETWEEN THE NEW SYRIAN ATTITUDE AND THE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN THAT ACCOMPANIED IT AGAINST THE AMERICAN MEDIATION."

5. PRO-FRANJIEH "AL BAYRAQ" REPORTS: "MR. DEAN BROWN PROPOSED HIS GOVERNMENT SEND TO LEBANON A NEW AMBASSADOR...AND HIS SUPERVISORS APPROVED THE PROPOSAL. THEY ARE SENDING AMBASSADOR FRANCIS MELOY, WHO IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN COMING FEW DAYS. PRESIDENT FRANJIEH AND PRIME MINISTER KARAMI YESTERDAY APPROVED THE NOMINATION."

6. LEFTIST, PRO-PLO "AL MOHARRIR" WRITES: "THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT AMERICAN ENVOY DEAN BROWN WILL RETURN TO WASHINGTON DURING COMING TWO DAYS TO HOLD UNCLASSIFIED

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DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT FORD ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON...IT IS KNOWN THAT NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE HAVE CONDEMNED BROWN'S MISSION AND AMERICAN MANEUVERS IN MIDEAST AND HAVE DEMANDED THAT HE END HIS MISSION. THIS POINT WAS MOST IMPORTANT PART OF DAMASCUS AGREEMENT."

7. LEFTIST, FREQUENTLY PRO-LIBYAN "AS SAFIR" PRINTS

ARTICLE ON LEBANESE CRISIS ATTRIBUTED TO AFP BEIRUT  
CORRESPONDENT. MUCH OF ARTICLE IS FACTUAL COMPARISON  
OF BROWN AND GORSE ACTIVITIES BUT IT CONCLUDES IN PART:  
"AN ANALYSIS OF CRISIS WAS PREPARED BY SOME ORGANS  
CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. THIS  
ANALYSIS, EXISTENCE OF WHICH IS NOT CONFIRMED BY ANY  
SOURCE, ASSERTS LEBANESE EVENTS WERE CONSEQUENCE OF  
AMERICAN PLAN SEEKING TO ACCOMMODATE THE YOUNG  
REPUBLIC MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH ARAB WORLD. IT WAS  
WASHINGTON'S ESTIMATION THAT ARABIZATION OF LEBANON  
WOULD PREVENT COMMUNIST PENETRATION INTO COUNTRY  
AND FACILITATE PALESTINIAN QUESTION BY EXCLUDING  
LEBANESE CHRISTIANS FROM THIS PROBLEM. AMERICAN  
PLANNERS CONSIDERED THAT CHRISTIANS IN ARAB STATES  
WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY POSSIBLE LIQUIDATION OF  
PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE BY AN ARAB LEBANON. ALSO  
WASHINGTON ESTIMATED THAT AS SOON AS LEBANON  
BECAME ARAB STATE, NEW LEBANESE AUTHORITIES  
WOULD HAVE GREATER POWER TO MANEUVER AGAINST  
REJECTIONIST FRONT AND FOR NEGOTIATED SOLUTION  
OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. SUBSEQUENTLY VARIOUS  
PROGRESSIVE TRENDS INTERVENED AND THIS LED TO  
WAR WHICH DESTROYED ECONOMY AT EXPENSE OF  
CHRISTIAN INTERESTS AND RIGHTIST MUSLIMS AS WELL...  
THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR DID NOT EXPECT SOCIALIST  
LEADER KAMAL JUMBLATT TO EXPLOIT ADVANCE OF  
THE LEFT FOR BENEFIT OF REFORM PROGRAM AND  
SECULARIZATION OF STATE...OBSERVERS CAN SEE THAT  
DEAN BROWN SEEKS NOTHING BY EXTENDING HIS TIME  
IN LEBANON OTHER THAN RESTORATION OF QUIET, WHAT-  
EVER THE PRICE, IN ORDER TO LIMIT MATTER WHICH  
U.S. NEVER IMAGINED WOULD GET OUT OF ITS CONTROL.  
BROWN

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